

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04164 241038Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----035772 241429Z /43  
R 241013Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8845  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4164

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, LE  
SUBJECT: SYRIAN INTENTIONS IN LEBANON

1. ON JULY 22 I ASKED G-2 JOHNNY ABDO WHAT HE THOUGHT SYRIAN INTENTIONS HERE WERE. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THEY HAD CHANGED IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS. OVER THAT PERIOD THEY HAD RELEASED THREE LEBANESE ARAB ARMY OFFICERS THEY HAD HELD IN MEZZE PRISON SINCE 1976: CAPTAIN HALANI, CAPTAIN GHUTAYMI AND CAPTAIN 'ADHAM. THE LATTER HAD JUST RETURNED TO BEIRUT AND WAS SPEAKING VERY FAVORABLY OF SYRIANS. ACCORDING TO HIM, AHMAD KHATIB WAS BEING VERY WELL TREATED BY SYRIANS. ABDO SAW THIS AS OMINOUS DEVELOPMENT WHEN COMBINED WITH FACT SYRIANS APPEARED BY ENCOURAGING OPPOSITION TO ARMY AMONG MOSLEM ELEMENTSRR. HE DID NOT THINK THEY WANTED LEBANON TO HAVE A STRONG ARMY.

2. ABDO NOTED THAT LEBANESE ARMY HAD ONLY OCCASIONAL CONTACTS WITH SYRIAN ARMY. HEADQUARTERS OF ARAB DETERRENT FORCE, ON OTHER HAND, HAD BECOME SOMETHING OF RALLYING POINT FOR MOSLEM LEBANESE OFFICERS, WHILE YARZE WAS BEING LEFT TO CHRISTIANS.

3. I NOTE ABOVE FOR RECORD ONLY BECAUSE AM NOT YET READY TO INTERPRET IT.

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PARKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BEIRUT04164  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, PINT, LE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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